

## **Claims**

What is Claimed is:

1. A system, comprising:
  - a stream source class loader retrieving streaming data to create a desired class object;
  - an interface coupled to the stream source class loader, and
  - a plurality of streaming sources containing information including the location of data, wherein requests for data are communicated from the stream source class loader to the streaming sources via the interface and, data passes from the stream sources to the stream source class loader via the interface, the streaming sources searching the data locations for the requested data.
2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the class object is a Java class object.
3. The system according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of streaming sources includes one of a zip file stream source, a database stream source and a uniform resource locator stream source.

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4. A class loader, comprising:
    - a receiving module to receive a request for a desired class object;
    - a stream source module containing information including the location of data which may be streamed to the class loader;
    - an interface module which receives requests for data from the receiving module and retrieves the streaming data from the stream source module, wherein the stream source module searches the data locations for the requested data; and
    - an instantiating module to receive the streaming data from the interface module and instantiate the class object.
  5. The class loader according to claim 4, wherein the stream source module includes a streaming source set by an application program.
  6. The class loader according to claim 4, wherein the stream source module includes a plurality of streaming sources, wherein the stream source module searches each of the streaming sources to locate the desired data.
  7. The class loader according to claim 6, wherein the stream source module searches each of

the streaming sources beginning with a most likely streaming source and proceeding sequentially in descending order of likelihood through the remaining streaming sources.

8. A method of loading a class object, comprising the steps of:

receiving a load request for the class object by a class loader;

passing the load request to an interface module, wherein the interface module includes a method to retrieve streaming data associated with the class object;

searching a data location with a stream source to find the data associated with the class object; and

streaming the data to the class loader.

9. The method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of:

instantiating the class object using the streamed data.

10. The method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of:

configuring the stream source including the location of the data for the

class object.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the data locations include one of zip files, databases and uniform resource locators.
  12. The method of claim 8, wherein, if the data associated with the class object is not found, an error is returned.